

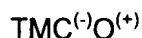
REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the captioned application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. These comments are intended to advance the case to issue without delay. The claims in the application were 1-27. No claim amendments are made in this response. Accordingly, the claims in the application remains claims 1-27.

Claims 1-3, 7, 13, 15-21, and 23 remain rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes et al (US 4,405,482). In the previous Office Action, it was asserted that Hayes et al. teaches a sanitizing formulation used in napkins comprising DTPA and that the composition acts as an antimicrobial agent. The Office Action conceded that Hayes et al. does not teach the instant amounts/ratio of ingredients of the instant invention.

In the currently pending Office Action, the Examiner argues that Hayes teaches a composition comprising DPTA and salts (MgSO<sub>4</sub> and NaCl). Such a combination is said to result in the NA and/or MG salt of the transition metal chelator (DPTA).

Applicant does not refute the Examiner's assertion that Hayes discloses DTPA acid and salts (MgSO<sub>4</sub> and NaCl). However, whether or not this combination leads to Mg/Na salts of DPTA is not relevant, because such materials are not claimed in the present invention. All salts comprise at least one anion and at least one cation. The present invention as claimed concerns particular salts of transitional metal chelators comprising transition metal chelators (TMC) anions and particular organic (O) cations. The formula of such a material would be, for example:



Transition metal chelator salts having the specified organic cations are key to the present invention. Since Hayes does not disclose any salts having organic cations, it does not anticipate or make obvious the present invention as claimed. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

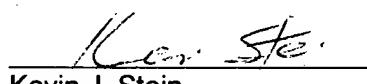
Claims 4-6, 8-12, 14, 22, 24-27 have been objected to as being dependent a rejected base claim. As discussed above, applicants have traversed the rejection of the base claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In view of these remarks, withdrawal of these rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin J. Stein  
Registration No. 47,966  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

KJS/sa  
(201) 840-2394